



CLIFFORD W. CROUCH
Assemblyman 122nd District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Committee on Agriculture

COMMITTEES
Economic Development, Job Creation,
Commerce and Industry
Local Government
Labor

August 27, 2002

Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

NOV - 1 2002

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

01-348

Dear Mr. Powell:

Please accept this correspondence as a letter of support **for** the proposed merger between EchoStar Communications and Hughes Electronics. This merger, if approved by the United States Department of Justice and the Federal Communications Commission, would enable the resulting company to provide high speed broadband internet access at a competitive price, digital quality television and CD quality audio to virtually any home or business in the country including every citizen of the State of New York regardless of how remote their location may be.

Despite the growth in satellite delivery of television, the pay-television market is still dominated by cable. Unfortunately, in areas such as Delaware County (located in rural upstate New York) there **is** an apparent inability **for** cable companies to carry local channels in areas other than the nation's largest media markets.

Dish TV providers come under federal regulations. Consequently, **as** a State Legislator I have very limited political persuasive power over the coverage issue. However, in a recent meeting with satellite-delivered television providers, I learned that EchoStar and Hughes electronics, the two premier satellite companies in the nation will likely be merging. Until now, these companies have been unable to carry more local stations because their limited "spectrum" is used to carry essentially the same duplicate programming on each system. The combined company would be able to eliminate this duplicate programming and would employ some new technologies that will enable the company to carry local television channels in every television market in New York and throughout the nation. That is a huge benefit to people in rural New York who aren't served by cable TV and have no access to quality delivery of local television channels.

The merger also means that rural America will soon be able to surf the Internet at high speeds via satellite. This too is a huge benefit to everyone who does not have access to broadband from their cable provider or whose home is not passed by a DSL telephone line.

No. of Copies rec'd 2
List ABCDE _____



BCC: FCC Washinton, DC, Chairman

